

Message Text

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TAGS: CI, SHUM

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY EXPULSIONS AND DETENTIONS

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 5671 (B) SANTIAGO 5661

1. SUMMARY: REPORTEDLY 15 MORE PERSONS HAVE BEEN DETAINED AT UNIVERSITY OF CHILE. MAJORITY OF THOSE DISMISSED FROM CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY WERE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. RECENT EVENTS ARE INDICATIVE OF TROUBLED STATE OF UNIVERSITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. TWO MEMBERS OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY'S INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE HAVE GENERALLY CONFIRMED EVENTS DESCRIBED PARA TWO REF A. CONTROVERSIAL SEMINAR WAS SCHEDULED; REPORTEDLY PERMISSION WAS GRANTED BY HIGH-LEVEL UNIVERSITY AND GOC OFFICIALS; BUT RECTOR-DELEGATE SWETT REJECTED PROPOSAL AND ASKED DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE TO RESIGN. CONSEQUENTLY, SEVERAL PROFESSORS RESIGNED IN PROTEST AND OTHERS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY DISMISSED. OUT OF FACULTY OF 15, APPARENTLY ONLY THREE OR FOUR REMAIN. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT TOLD EMBOFF THAT MAJORITY OF THOSE DISMISSED WERE PARTY MEMBERS AND CORE OF PARTY'S BRAIN TRUST.

3. AT UNIVERSITY OF CHILE (REF B), REPORTEDLY UP TO 15 MORE PERSONS HAVE BEEN DETAINED, THIS TIME WITHOUT MEDIA REPORTING. WRITS OF HABEAS CORPUS (AMPARO) SUBMITTED FOR 30 OF THOSE DETAINED

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HAVE BEEN REJECTED BY APPEALS COURT.

4. SEVERAL WIVES OF DETAINED PROFESSORS HAVE CONTACTED EMBOFFS. THEY MAINTAIN HUSBANDS WERE NOT POLITICAL ACTIVISTS, AND ARE VICTIMS OF DISGRUNTLED COLLEAGUES, WHO HAVING LOST THEIR OWN JOBS, FALSELY IDENTIFY OTHERS AS MARXISTS. REPORTEDLY HUSBANDS WERE DETAINED IN EARLY MORNING HOURS BY GOC SECURITY FORCES AND FAMILIES WERE NOT NOTIFIED DURING 48-HOUR PERIOD, AS REQUIRED UNDER NEW SECURITY LAW.

5. PRESIDENT PINOCHET AUGUST 23 COMMENTED IN NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW THAT GOC HAD LONG BEEN AWARE OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY WITHIN UNIVERSITY OF CHILE NORMAL SCHOOL. ARRESTS WERE MADE AS RESULT OF THIS KNOWLEDGE.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS FEAR GOC ACTIONS WITHIN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY MAY BE DIRECTED AGAINST THEM (SANTIAGO 5803), RECENT ACTIONS IN UNIVERSITIES ARE POSSIBLY MORE GENERAL GOC ATTEMPT TO ROUT OUT DISSENTERS AND REPLACE THEM WITH GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME SPECIFIC ANTI-GOC ACTIVITY OF WHICH WE AND THE CHILEAN PUBLIC ARE NOT AWARE.

7. THE FACULTIES OF UNIVERSITY OF CHILE'S NORMAL SCHOOL AND CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY'S INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE HAVE IN EFFECT BEEN DESTROYED. WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS START OF NEW GOC EFFORT TO COMPLETE PURGE OF CRITICS IN UNIVERSITIES, ACTIVE OR POTENTIAL, IT INDICATES TROUBLED STATE OF CHILE'S UNIVERSITIES, AND THE EXTENT OF GOC'S DIRECT INTERFERENCE IN THEM. RECENT EVENTS HAVE HAD FURTHER DEBILITATING EFFECT ON UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY MORALE AND ATTEMPTS TO MAINTAIN SEMBLANCE OF OBJECTIVE ACADEMIC ATMOSPHERE. POPPER

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